



Week ending January 17, 2009



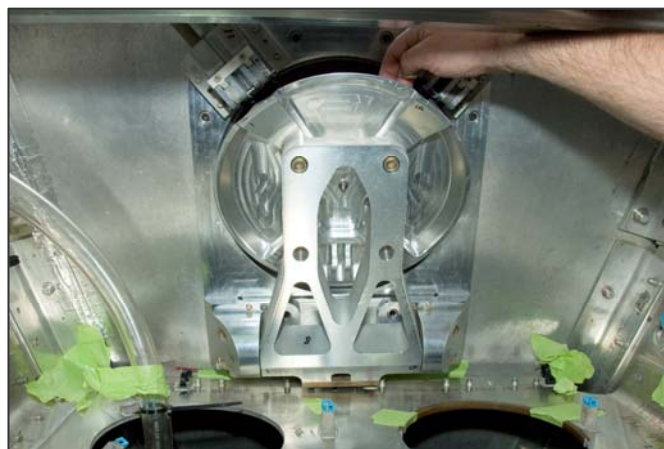
The Avcoat Heatshield Manufacturing Demonstration Unit (MDU) built by Textron (Photo left) is complete and was shipped to Kennedy Space Center. The Avcoat material covers nearly a quarter of the carrier structure. During the build of this MDU several types of honeycomb, and seams between honeycomb sections were utilized. A simulated compression pad was also included. The honeycomb cells were filled one at a time. All of the Avcoat was inspected by x-ray and repair techniques were demonstrated for defects detected. Following, a portion of the heat shield was painted. An additional MDU is being built in which a smaller portion of the structure will be covered with Avcoat using the latest manufacturing materials and techniques.



Low Impact Docking System (LIDS) Hatch Window Mockup is ready for evaluation of viewing area. Picture shown at left shows sample viewing of LIDS petal "squeeze and turn" style handles through Hatch Window Mockup.

The electrical T-0 door was installed in the crew module simulator (Photo bottom left). The thermal T-0 door was delivered to Dryden Flight Research Center and will be installed this week. The operations team continues to close out the structural modifications in preparation for the pallet installation.

The pre-ship review of the LAS nose cap with the Flush Air Data System sensors installed was successfully completed (Photo bottom right). The nose cap was shipped back to Orbital Sciences Corporation.





Erection of the first (bottom) section of the launch pad gantry at White Sands Missile Range abort test launch complex is nearly complete (Photo left). Once the first section of the gantry is fully erected, a gantry roll test will take place where the bottom section of the gantry on the gantry wheel assemblies will be rolled from the launch position (gantry retracted position) 150 ft to the service position over the launch mount, and back to the launch position. The first use of the gantry is for Ascent Abort test #1.

Kennedy Space Center Operations and Checkout Facility progress:

- Control Data & Communications installation of components and system testing is complete.
 - The Processing Station Services testing complete and components are labeled.
 - Vehicle Refurbishment Area testing is complete.
 - Fire Detection System validation is complete.
 - Bridge Crane installation and testing is complete. Final testing of the new low bay crane and training of personnel is complete.
-



Michoud Assembly Facility progress:

Universal Weld System #2 Site Preparation: The construction of site prep modifications is complete. Universal Weld System #2 turntable bearing was delivered (Photo left).
